

WORKS and Opening Doors Connecticut, to unify everyone in this collective effort.

Carol was beloved by her family and friends, and will always be remembered as a beacon of light and hope. Her exuberance for her mission will be carried on by her colleagues, and her charity will inspire many others. I invite my colleagues to join me in honoring the tremendous work of Carol Walter and preserving her legacy so that others may see her tremendous importance and continue her efforts. Indeed, it is through the good works of others in the fight against homelessness that she would choose to be remembered.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

AMERICAN RED CROSS MONTH

• Mr. BEGICH. Mr. President, I would like to take the time to recognize and thank those who volunteer, take life saving courses or provide financial donations to support an organization whose mission is to help those in need, and in their honor, recognize March 2013 as American Red Cross Month.

In Alaska the Red Cross works tirelessly statewide through its 18 employees and hundreds of volunteers to help when disaster strikes and when someone needs the comfort of a helping hand. It provides 24-hour support to members of the military, veterans and their families, and provides training in CPR, aquatics safety, and first aid.

Across the country, the American Red Cross responds to nearly 70,000 disasters a year. It provides some 400,000 services to military members, veterans and civilians, collects and distributes about 40 percent of the Nation's blood supply and trains more than seven million people in first aid, water safety and other lifesaving skills every year.

Alaska, and the rest of the country, relies on the American Red Cross and the work of their supporters. I hope that by recognizing March as American Red Cross Month we can highlight their exemplary work and ensure they can continue to help Americans for years to come.●

FEBRUARY HOCKEY IN ALASKA

• Mr. BEGICH. Mr. President, ice hockey is a popular activity in Alaska year round and especially in the winter. Today, I want to highlight hockey in my home State.

You can find someone passing the puck around in nearly any community or military installation with a frozen lake, pond or ice rink, whether it's organized play or a pickup game. There are dozens of leagues and camps for players of all ages from the squirts and midgets to Anchorage's Aces and Seawolves and Fairbanks' Ice Dogs and Nanooks.

At the professional level, the National Hockey League recognizes the importance of hockey in the lower

ranks by sponsoring the "Hockey Is for Everyone" program in February. This program helps young girls and boys learn essential life skills such as commitment and perseverance.

The NHL, along with USA Hockey, participates in the Presidential Active Lifestyle Award program, to promote activity and good nutrition. Anyone who has ever skated hard for more than a few minutes knows how healthy it can be, whether your goal is to have fun, stay fit or to play in the NHL, on the U.S. Olympic team or at the 2014 Arctic Winter Games in Fairbanks.

Not only does playing hockey teach the ideals of teamwork, fair play and loyalty, when Alaskans get involved in fund raising, coaching, and event chap-eroning, they are practicing good civics and citizenship.

And it's exciting to watch live or broadcasted games because the sport is so fast paced, yet graceful and athletic at the same time.

Three cheers for the players, coaches and supporters of hockey in Alaska.●

REMEMBERING CHESTER REITEN

• Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. President, today I wish to honor the life of Chester Reiten who passed away January 22, 2013, in his beloved hometown, Minot, ND.

Chester "Chet" Reiten was born in Hastings, ND, in 1923 and served in the U.S. Navy during World War II. He graduated from North Dakota State University in Fargo, ND, with a degree in agriculture and worked as a county agent until entering the radio and television field in 1951. His company, Reiten Broadcasting Co., eventually owned four television and three radio stations in North Dakota.

In 1978, Chester Reiten and some of his Norwegian friends sat down to discuss a way in which they could celebrate their ancestry. Their discussion led to the birth of Norsk Høstfest, with Reiten serving as the founding father. More than 35 years since its founding, Norsk Høstfest has become an international phenomenon due to Reiten's tireless leadership and efforts to steer the course of a Nordic festival that is both an ethnic celebration and a great source of entertainment. Annually, the event draws approximately 60,000 people from throughout North America and abroad. Over the years, royalty, ambassadors, national war and sports heroes, Members of Congress, a former Vice President of the United States, and many of North Dakota's Governors have attended the festival.

As a result of the success of Norsk Høstfest, His Majesty King Olav V of Norway awarded Reiten the St. Olav Medal, one of the highest honors bestowed by the Norwegian Government to individuals living outside of Norway. In 2011, Reiten was also inducted into the Scandinavian-American Hall of Fame in recognition of his efforts to preserve and maintain our Nation's rich Scandinavian heritage.

Reiten also was a dedicated public servant who devoted a considerable

amount of his time and energy to serving his community and State. His efforts included lengthy tenures as a State senator and mayor of Minot.

Chester Reiten was a great North Dakotan and a great American. He especially loved the city of Minot. I feel privileged to have known Chet all my life, and I am thankful to have called him a friend. He has left an indelible impact on our State and country, leaving a legacy of service, first serving our Nation during World War II and returning home to become a pioneer North Dakota broadcaster, mayor of Minot, State legislator and the heart and soul of Høstfest, which today remains the largest Scandinavian festival in North America.

These many accomplishments, and more, made Chet an easy choice for the Theodore Roosevelt Rough Rider Award, North Dakota's highest honor, which I was proud to present to him in 2002.

Chet truly was an all-around great guy who will be deeply missed. Mikey and I give thanks to God for the life of Chester Reiten, and we extend our thoughts and prayers to his wife of more than 65 years, Joy, and his family and friends.●

RECOGNIZING LINDSEY HEWARD

• Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, I want to thank a young Kansan for sharing her thoughts and opinions regarding the U.S. Department of Agriculture's implementation of new school meal requirements.

Ms. Lindsey Heward wrote to me last fall to express her and fellow Osage City High School students' frustrations with the amount of food they were getting to eat at lunch and their choices for food. She outlined several areas that the USDA could focus on to prevent obesity rather than solely school meal programs. Among her suggestions were to have the USDA encourage families to share meals together, develop budgeting skills for shoppers, and encourage nutritious meal planning. I would like to submit a copy of her letter into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

After hearing from parents, school administrators, and students like Lindsey, I shared the concerns I was receiving with USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack. These comments and concerns were heard by the USDA and the administration ultimately provided additional flexibility in implementing changes to school meals.

I am still concerned USDA doesn't fully understand the estimated costs to schools and plate waste. I will continue to monitor the implementation of this rule, and its impact on schools in Kansas as well as the rest of the country. I look forward to working with Secretary Vilsack to continue to improve school nutrition while ensuring our students are adequately fed.

I ask that Ms. Lindsey Heward's letter be printed in the RECORD.

The letter follows.